



1953



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
*Dartmouth and Totnes
Port Health Authority*



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REPRESENTATIVE FROM TOTNES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Alderman R. F. Rowe (Chairman)

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
Dartmouth and Totnes Port Health Authority
for the year ending December 31st, 1953**

To the Chairman and Members

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with my statutory duties I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1953.

There has been no change in the Port Health District of Dartmouth and Totnes as constituted in the year 1888 by a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board.

SECTION I.—Staff—No change

SECTION II.

**Amount of Shipping entering the District
during the year 1953**

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
For'gn P'ts	193	6,739	6	193	Nil
Coastwise	86	39,906	3	86	Nil
Total	279	46,645	9	279	Nil

SECTION III.

Character of shipping and tonnage during the year 1953

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic	{	Number of Passengers INWARDS—Nil
		Number of ,, OUTWARDS—Nil
Cargo Traffic	{	Principal IMPORTS—Coal, Timber, Cement
		Principal EXPORTS—Nil

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which Ships arrive.—Goole, Blyth, London, Baltic Ports

Foreign shipping entering the Port during the year has dropped by 13,684 tons as compared with 1952.

Coastwise shipping increased by 832 tons due to increase in discharge of coal at Kingswear.

Ships proceeding up river: to Totnes, total 28

With cargoes of Cement 9

With cargoes of Timber 19

SECTION IV.—Inland Barge Traffic

NIL

SECTION V.—Water Supply—No change

SECTION VI.—

Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952—

No change

SECTION VII.—Smallpox

(1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent in the district:

County Smallpox Hospital, Upton Pines, Exeter.

(2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to the

Hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Ambulance is provided from the County Smallpox Hospital on application to the Resident Medical Officer. The Exeter Special Hospital Management Committee are responsible for the ambulance and the ambulance crews are vaccinated yearly.

(3) Names of Smallpox consultants available:

Dr. C. Seward, Exeter

Dr. W. J. Laird, Exeter

(4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox:

The Virus reference Laboratory, Colindale, London, N.W.4, or through the Public Health Laboratory at 7, Dix's Field, Exeter.

SECTION VIII.—Venereal Disease—No change

SECTION IX.

Cases of Notifiable and Other Infectious Disease on Ships

TABLE D

Category	Disease	No. of cases during year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases from ships from foreign ports	Sonne Dysentery	Nil	3	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	—		Nil	
Cases from other ships	Food Poisoning	2	Nil	1
	Scarlet Fever	1		1

Note—In each case the vessel concerned was a private yacht.

SECTION X.—

Observation on the Occurrence of Malaria in Ships.

NIL

SECTION XI.—

Measures taken against ships infested with, or suspected for, Plague

NIL

SECTION XII.—

Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Parts

1.—Procedure for inspection of ships in Port:

Routine inspection of ships entering Port by Port Sanitary Inspector.

2.—Arrangements for bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague is carried out by Public Health Laboratory at Exeter.

Number of rodents sent for examination during the year.—NIL.

3.—There are no arrangements in the District for deratting ships.

4.—Procedure in the rat-proofing of ships.—NIL.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

Category	Number
Black Rats	Nil
Brown Rats	Nil
Species not known ...	Nil
Sent for examination ...	Nil
Infected with plague ...	Nil

TABLE F

De-ratting Certificates and De-ratting Exemption Certificates
issued during the year for ships from foreign ports

No. of De-ratting Certificates issued					Number of De-rat'g ex'mption c'rtific's issued	Total C'rt'fi- cates Issued
After fumigation with		After trapp'g	After pois'n'g	Total		
HCN	Other fumigant (state method)					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION XIII.—Inspection of ships for nuisances

TABLE G
Inspection and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections				Notices Served		Result of serv- ing notice
				Stat'ry notices	Other notices	
General examination of crews' quarters, heads, water supply, store rooms, holds and bilges				246	Nil	6
						Inf'mal notices
Total				246	Nil	6

SECTION XIV.—Public Health (Shell-Fish) Regulations. 1934 and 1948—No change

SECTION XV.—Medical Inspection of Aliens—No change

SECTION XVI.—Miscellaneous

There has been no change in the arrangements for ~~the~~ trial of infectious cases or the disposal of Smallpox cases.

During 1953 the following patients from ships in harbour were treated by me—

1.—At Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital:

Concussion	1
Injury to Chest	1
Laceration Chest	1
Appendicitis	1

2.—At my Surgery or at Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital as outpatients:

<i>a</i> Venereal Disease	Nil
<i>b</i> Upper respiratory tract infections	4
<i>c</i> Fibrositis	1
<i>d</i> Sprain	2
<i>e</i> Anxiety State	1
<i>f</i> Food Poisoning	2
<i>g</i> Sonne Dysentery	3
<i>h</i> Minor Ailments	7

All Foreshores, Quays and Jetties have been inspected and found satisfactory.

All sewer outfalls are satisfactory, excepting three at Dartmouth which were still defective. The matter has again been brought to the notice of the Dartmouth Borough Council.

One houseboat was inspected at Kingswear Creek.—No nuisance was found.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. VERNIQUET, M.B., Ch.B.,

Port Medical Officer of Health.



